

Stuart Upended By Wakefield

By Skip Major

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Last week after Annandale defeated Wakefield, Atoms' Coach Bob Hardage predicted better things for the Warriors and trouble for the other Northern district teams. That prediction proved to be right on target.

Previously undefeated and fourth-ranked Stuart found out what Hardage meant as Wakefield dumped the Raiders 7-6 last night in a Northern District game at Stuart.

Wakefield, 3-2, upset the Rebels on the strength of its defensive play. Three times Stuart threatened to break open the game but the Warriors met each challenge.

"We didn't have much offense in the second half but our defense made up for it," said Warrior Coach Bruce Hanson after the game.

Stuart, behind the running of Ray Friday, pulled within one point of Wakefield mid-way through the fourth quarter. The Raiders drove 80 yards with Friday providing a key 30-yard run. On second and goal to go from the five, Friday slanted off the right side for the score.

"They beat one of our best players (Ray Culpepper) for the touchdown," said Hanson. "I didn't make any changes for the extra point try. I just left it up to the defense to do its job."

The Raiders, going for the two-point conversion and victory, sent Friday off the right side once again. But Wakefield's David Crane, Harvey Garner and Darry Venable stopped Friday inches from the goal line.

Although Hanson felt his team's offensive performance was not up to par, Moscoe Brownlee and Melvin Cook kept the Raiders on defense for a good part of the game. Brownlee, who finished with 86 yards rushing on 20 carries, made several key plays to keep Warrior drives alive.

Probably his most important carry was on a fourth and inches situation at the Stuart 48 with just two minutes remaining. He spun off tackle and twisted for the first down. The run allowed Wakefield to maintain possession until turning the ball over to the Raiders with 1:04 left.

Stuart's John Banks hit Matt Os-trande with a 13-yard pass, setting up a first down for Stuart at the Wakefield 46. The Warriors, conceding any short passes, forced Banks to miss on his next four attempts.